

I am, in many places of the *Abbé's* book, surpris'd to find that experiments have succeeded so differently at *Paris* from what they did with *Mr Franklin*, and as I have always observ'd them to do. The *Abbé*, in making experiments to find the difference between the two surfaces of a charged glass, will not have the phial placed on wax: For, says he, don't you know that being placed on a body originally electric, it quickly loses its virtue? I cannot imagine what should have made the *Abbé* think so; it certainly is contradictory to the notions commonly received of electrics per se; and by experiment I find it entirely otherwise: For having several times left a charged phial, for that purpose, standing on wax for hours, I found it to retain as much of its charge as another that stood at the same time on a table. I left one standing on wax from 10 o'clock at night till 8 next morning, when I found it to retain a sufficient quantity of its charge, to give me a sensible commotion in my arms, though the room in which the phial stood had been swept in that time, which must have rais'd much dust to facilitate the discharge of the phial.

I find that a cork ball suspended between two bottles, the one fully and the other but little charged, will not play between them, but is driven into a situation that makes a triangle with the hooks of the phials; though the *Abbé* has asserted the contrary of this, *p. 101*, in order to account for the playing of a cork ball between the
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wire thrust into the phial, and one that rises up from its coating. The phial which is least charged must have more electric matter given to it, in proportion to its bulk, than the cork ball receives from the hook of the full phial.

The *Abbé* says, *p. 103*, "that a piece of metal leaf hung to a silk thread and electrified, will be repell'd by the bottom of a charged phial held by its hook in the air;" This I find constantly otherwise, it is with me always first attracted and then repelled: It is necessary in charging the leaf to be careful that it does not fly off to some non-electric body, and so discharge itself when you think it is charged; it is difficult to keep it from flying to your own wrist, or to some part of your body.

The *Abbé*, *p. 108*, says, "that it is not impossible, as *Mr Franklin* says it is, to charge a phial while there is a communication form'd between its coating and its hook". I have always found it impossible to charge such a phial so as to give a shock: Indeed if it hang on the conductor without a communication from it, you may draw a spark from it as you may from any body that hangs there, but this is very different from being charged in such a manner as to give a shock. The *Abbé*, in order to account for the little quantity of electric matter that is to be found in the phial, says, "that it rather follows the metal than the glass, and that it is spewed out into the air from the coating of the phial". I wonder how it comes not to do so too,
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